

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 3, line 18 to read as follows:

Further, the press fabric may be formed of several layers. For example, the fabric may include a woven base and an intermediate layer that are laminated together. One such fabric is the Albany International Apertech™ press fabric, which includes a woven base fabric and a polymeric layer. The polymeric layer of the Apertech™ fabric is perforated and is illustrated in Figure 1. Figure 1 is a plan view of the paper side of the polymeric layer, in which the polymeric layer is generally indicated by reference numeral 21 and the perforations by reference numeral 4. As can be seen from the figure, surface 21 is smooth and the perforations are evenly distributed across the surface.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 6, line 17 to read as follows:

Figure 4 is a plan view of a section of a perforated layer in accordance with still another embodiment of the invention. As can be seen from Figure 34, all perforations 18 are confined to land areas 22 and no perforation lies in any groove area 20. All of the variations discussed in connection with the Figure 2 embodiment are applicable to the Figure 4 embodiment, with the exception of the variations regarding placement of the perforations.